(c) if so, what other steps Government is adopting to develop our capabilities of meeting our maximum requirement from indigenous sources coupled with assured supplies from abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Oil India Limited (OIL) have entered into an MOU on 27th December, 2007, whereby both parties have agreed to jointly examine E&P opportunities overseas.

(b) No, Sir. The E&P acreages are offered to contractors by various countries generally through bidding rounds. The winner of the acreage has to enter into contractual agreements with the host government. These contracts amongst other things also deal with disposal of petroleum and its pricing mechanism.

(c) Several steps have been taken/are in hand to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production activities to meet our maximum requirement from indigenous sources, which include the following:

(i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production.

(iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

(iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

(v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

(vi) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.

(vii) Substitution of oil through use of non-conventional source of energy such as bio-diesel, ethanol, etc.

(viii) Extraction of gas from gas hydrates under National Gas Hydrates Programme (NGHP) by evolving suitable production technology.

Expenditure for promotion of petrol and diesel

2432. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by the public sector oil companies for the promotion of petrol and diesel through the electronic media during the last three months starting from November, 2007, PSU-wise and media-wise;

(b) whether saving of fossil fuels is a policy of Government;

(c) if so, whether the advertisement in the media will enhance the wastage of fuels;

(d) whether the youth will experiment on the driving styles as appeared on the advertisements; and

(e) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are not promoting the use of petrol and diesel as such. However, these Companies have been promoting and encouraging the use of their premium brands of fuels such as Xtra Premium branded petrol and Xtra Mile branded diesel of Indian Oil; Power and Turboject etc. as these branded fuels give superior mileage; better engine protection; smooth driving and reduced pollutants due to the special properties of Multi-functional additives in such branded fuels. Such advertisements do not enhance the wastage of fuels. The expenditure incurred by various OMCs on promoting such branded fuels during the last three months starting from November, 2007 is as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)	Amount spent on ads through Radio/ TV media from November, 2007 to January, 2008
IOCL	387.56
BPCL	130.00
HPCL	4.73

Such promotional advertisement generally do not depict any special driving styles which may be experimented by the youth. Further, the action shown in the special effects in some of such advertisements are not part of daily life and are normally exaggerated. However, a precautionary warning is shown in all such advertisements, telling the viewers that the actions are performed by experts and should not be attempted by the viewers.

Production of oil and natural gas

†2433. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the O.N.G.C. sources the production of crude oil and natural gas in the country during the year ending on March, 2008 is likely to be same as it was in the last year;

(b) if so, the details of production made during the year 2007-08 up to January, 2008 as compared with the production made during 2006-07 up to January, 2007; and

(c) the amount incurred by ONGC on the schemes formulated to enhance the production during 2006-07 and 2007-08 separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The details of Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC)'s crude oil and natural gas production during the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 are given below:

Year	Oil (Million Metric Tonnes)	Gas (Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres)
2006-07	26.051	22442
2007-08 (Provisional)	25.919	22335

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.